

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 694

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Frank Byrd upon his acceptance into the United States Naval Academy.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Frank Byrd, the first Cherokee High School student to attend the United States Naval Academy (USNA); and

WHEREAS, in order to be considered for this prestigious institution, applicants typically require a Presidential or Congressional nomination, but Cadet Byrd received his appointment in the first round of USNA board selections, backed only by a nomination from his Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) instructor, Clyde Shumate; and

WHEREAS, coming from a long line of enlisted members of the U.S. Navy, he will be the first officer in his family upon his graduation from the USNA; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, the soon-to-be midshipman was also recently named the next Cadet Commanding Officer, the highest rank in the NJROTC, and served as the Color Guard Commander, Platoon Officer, Unarmed Drill Commander, Athletic Officer, and Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, Cadet Frank Byrd also led color guards, community service events, and NJROTC competitions and served as cadet cadre for the NJROTC Area Nine Leadership Academy, where he helped train over 100 local NJROTC cadets in leadership, military drill, and physical fitness; and

WHEREAS, Frank Byrd has been preparing for this moment all his life, having completed all of the USNA-recommended advanced courses at his high school, such as Physics and Calculus, and enhancing his exercise routine in anticipation of the Academy's seven-week-long training program, Plebe Summer; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his already impressive military accomplishments, Cadet Byrd has been actively involved in various scholastic activities, serving as Class President since freshman year, Student Council President, Cherokee's student representative for the Hawkins County Board of Education, member of Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta (math honor society), and the National Society of High School Scholars, while working every summer at the Panther Creek State Park; and

WHEREAS, a driven and versatile athlete, he has participated in track for four years, cross country for two years, football for one year, leadership of the NJROTC physical training team, and martial arts at Kellys Heroes Isshinryu Karate School; and

WHEREAS, while attending the USNA, Cadet Byrd plans to major in chemistry, play water polo, become a member of the Baptist Student Union, the SCUBA club, the USNA Special Operations Team, and the USNA Honor Board; and

WHEREAS, this highly ambitious and hardworking young man hopes to become a Navy Seal and serve at least twenty years as a career officer; and

WHEREAS, he is most grateful for the love and support of his parents, the encouragement of his employers and friends at Panther Creek State Park, and the guidance of Warrant Officer Clyde Shumate, Chief Petty Officer Gary Stidham, Coach Jeremy Parrott, and English teacher Linda Jackson; and

WHEREAS, through his enrollment in the United States Naval Academy, Frank Byrd continues a time-honored Tennessee tradition of military service, and for the success he has thus far enjoyed as he treads this noble path, Cadet Byrd should be duly recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Frank Byrd upon his acceptance into

the United States Naval Academy, thank him for his selfless service to the people of this State and the nation of which it is a part, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.